

**The Sixth Meeting of the Home Affairs Sub-committee on
the Community Care Fund
24 November 2011**

Summary of Discussion

The Home Affairs Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its sixth meeting on 24 November 2011. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress on the pilot scheme of financial assistance for ethnic minorities (EMs) and new arrivals (NAs) from the Mainland for taking language-related international public examinations. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) would continue to work with New Home Association, the implementation agency, to publicize and promote the programme in a diversified and comprehensive manner.
2. Members noted the progress on the programme of providing a one-off allowance to NAs from low-income families. Since the programme started to accept applications from 3 October 2011, about 110 000 applications had been received and about 28 000 telephone enquiries had been handled. The dedicated counter set up at 6/F of Southorn Centre had answered enquiries from some 5 800 applicants.
3. Members had preliminary discussion on the proposal of delivering “fortune bags” to the underprivileged in local communities by HAD in collaboration with district liaison networks, including:
 - The programme would help promote the caring culture, but it would be difficult to clearly define those underprivileged with financial needs.
 - Careful consideration should be given in devising the fortune bag items to take into account the needs of different underprivileged groups (e.g. the elderly, disabled persons, etc).

HAD would further study whether and how to implement the programme.

4. Members had preliminary discussion on the proposed programme of providing subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings, including:
 - The proposed scope of subsidy should not duplicate with prevailing financial assistance schemes for building management/maintenance provided by the Government itself or through other agencies.
 - Consideration should be given on whether the subsidy should be distributed to owners' corporations, which was different from the CCF's general practice of giving subsidies to individuals.

Members agreed to further deliberate on the details of the programme.